

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Prentice Computer Centre

NEWSLETTER

authorization: Director of the Centre

1 PLEASE ARRANGE TO RENEW YOUR PPN

In newsletter N-196 dated 16 February, users were advised that current PPNs would expire on 24.12.76. At the same time, we would like to review the use of charge codes. The number of charge codes has grown in a fairly uncontrolled way and it would be of great assistance to us if users could group as many PPNs as possible under the one charge code. It would also be helpful to obtain some statistics of usage under the following general categories:

Post Graduate Teaching, Under Graduate Teaching, Non-Credit Teaching, Research, Technical Applications and Commercial Application.

A copy of the form to renew a PPN is attached and additional copies are available from the enquiry window. For any further information, please phone Di Ball (Operations Manager) Extension 6471. Your co-operation would be appreciated and remember that PPNs not renewed will automatically expire on 31.12.76

PAPER FOR TERMINET TERMINALS

Although MNT-1 indicates that we carry stocks of the special paper used by these terminals, it has proved uneconomical for us to hold stocks and we are not able to supply paper to users. Paper is available from Computer Resources Group (phone 360802) and we suggest you contact them for your paper requirements.

3 A READY REFERENCE BOOKLET

A punched card sized reference booklet on the PDP-10 system has been obtained from Flinders University of South Australia and is available for 50¢. It gives a brief summary of most common operating system commands, editor commands and Fortran usage and may be of value to users.

4 CHANGEOVER OF SYSTEM SOFTWARE

On Monday, 6 December 1976, the following changes of system software will be made:

(a) F10 V1A will be deleted from OLD:
 F10 V4 will be transferred from STD: to OLD:
 F10 V4A will be transferred from NEW: to STD:

F10 version 4A is the latest released version and is known to correct a number of problems with the present standard version, in particular, variable dimensional arrays in subroutines are now understood to work correctly. The release is accompanied with the following report of bugs and deficiencies -

The statement DO 10 I=10,1 will erroneously generate a loop which will execute more than once, with increasing values of I. A namelist I/O statement which also contains an I/O list will generate an invalid argument list which will cause FOROTS to die during execution. Implied DO loops of the form (I,A(I,1),A(I,2),J=1,10) will cause the optimizer to crash. Common statements which are missing a comma (COMMON/X/A(5)B(5)) will put variables into blank common without any warning message. Open/close statements containing the DO loop variable will not be correctly optimized, and no warning will be given. Entry statements should be immediately followed by a statement with a statement number if the program is to be optimized. The compiler erroneously does not recognize the entry as a transfer statement.

In addition, it has been found that the optimizer phase can still produce incorrect code in some circumstances. These errors generally give obviously incorrect results but, at this stage, users must be urged to make comparative tests between the optimized and unoptimized versions of a program before committing themselves to the former.

The file DOC:FTN4A.DOC lists details of this new version and interested users are referred to it for detailed information.

(b) Algol 4 will be transferred from STD: to OLD:
 Algol 6A will be transferred from NEW: to STD:

Version 6 of Algol has been on NEW: for several months and was replaced recently with the latest supported version 6A which is a maintenance release by DEC and has some 22 bug fixes. The file DOC:ALG6A.DOC lists details of this new version and users are referred to it for detailed information.

The currently available DEC Algol manual gives operating procedures for this version which may differ somewhat from procedures with the present standard version.

Following our usual practice, these documentation files and the superseded program versions on OLD: will be deleted from Disk in early January to conserve space.

5 SPSS VERSION CHANGES

Users of SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) should note that as from MONDAY, 6 DECEMBER 1976, the multiplicity of versions available will be rationalised to the following effect -

STA:SPSS	deleted
OLD:SPSS	deleted
NEW:SPSS	moved to STA:

Thus, there will then be only one version (6.02B) supported. It will be accessed via the usual command .RUN STA:SPSS.

The documentation is the McGraw-Hill manual, second edition with the red cover. DECsystem-10 deviations and extensions to this manual can be found in the files SPSS.DOC and RELIAB.DOC, copies of which can be obtained via the command

.PRINT DOC:SPSS.DOC,DOC:RELIAB.DOC

THE HELP SYSTEM

DEC have established a practice of creating help files for programs and systems. These files take the name of the system and have extension .HLP. They will usually reside on the HLP: directory [2,5] but may also be on STD:, NEW: and possibly other directories. The command

.HELP name

will type out the help file on <name> if it exists on HLP: or SYS:.

.HELP

by itself will give you a quick summary of what to do and

.HELP *

will tell you what help files are available and what Monitor commands there are.

You may also type out help files from other areas; for a new system, the help file may be on NEW: - the command

.HELP NEW:name

will get the information on the new system.

Further, an increasing number of systems will allow a command H or /H to type out the appropriate Help File.

The following are the help files as at 8 November 1976. Unless otherwise stated, these files are on the directory HLP:

BASIC	the Basic language
SYS:BCPL	the BCPL language
COBDDT	Cobol Debugging Tool
COBOL	running Cobol
CREF	running CREF
DIRECT	running DIRECT
SYS:EBCPL	running Essex BCPL Compiler (on BCL:)
FAILSA	Failsafe switches
FILCOM	running Filcom
FILEX	running Filex
FORDDT	using FORDDT
FORTRA	using F10 compiler
FUDGE2	running FUDGE2
GLOB	running GLOB
GRYPE	using the GRYPE program
HELP	using the Help command
INITIA	use of the Initia command
ISAM	using the DEC Isam program
LIBARY	use of the Cobol library maintenance program
LINK	use of the LINKing loader
LOGIN	how to login
MACRO	running Macro
MAKLIB	running MAKLIB
PASCAL	using PASCAL (Beware, it is in German!)
PIP	using PIP
PLEASE	using the Please command
QUEUE	using the QUEUE command (including PRINT, PLOT, SUBMIT, TPUNCH, CPUNCH)
QUOLST	running QUOLST
REMOTE	Remote station usage and restriction
RERUN	using the Cobol Rerun program
RUNF10	running RUNF10 (Runoff V10)
RUNINP	a list of Runoff V10 commands

SETSRC	using SETSRC
SIMCOM	Simula command string and switches
SIMDDT	using the Simula debugging aid
SIMDIR	using the Simula SIMDIR program
SIMRTS	Simula object time system details
SIMULA	general summary of the Simula system
SORT	using the Sort package
PUB:SOS	using the DEC editor SOS
SPSS	using SPSS
SSP	using SSP routines
SYSTAT	interpreting Systat output
TAPE	using the Tape command
SYS:TUSTAT	running TUSTAT programs
SYS:UMOUNT	using Mount and File commands
SYS:XPAL	Additional Essex BCPL information
SYS:TECO	using Teco

In addition, the documentation area has a number of generally self explanatory titled files which may be of interest to users. These files are not listed here because this directory is used to hold the documentation files of new or updated software for a limited period so that interested users may assess the possible effects of such new versions. At the moment, for example, this area carries the documentation files of Cobol V10 which is still on NEW:.

7 SYMAP OVERLAY PROGRAM

The brief documentation file for this program OVERLA.DOC has been transferred to P10: as the application is essentially concerned with plotting.

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Change of PROJECT PROGRAMMER NUMBER Expiry Date

Name:

Charge Code:

Usage: Please mark correct usage below.

Post Graduate Teaching

Under Graduate Teaching

Non Credit Teaching

Research

Technical Application

Commercial Application

Other - please state

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Project Programmer Numbers:

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Change Expiry Date to:

Signature:

Cm

Computer Centre Use Only

Charge Code: Cltcd: Prjcd:

Prjac Checked

Acct.sys updated

Date: Signature: